

# GRAND THEATRE

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Relaxed Performance

## Access Guide



Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 2:00 PM

Spriet Stage

### **Welcome to the Grand Theatre!**

We are looking forward to having you join us at the theatre. This relaxed performance guide will give audience members an idea of what the theatre experience will be like.

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# What is a Relaxed Performance?

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This performance is intended to be sensitive to and welcoming of neurodivergent audiences, including patrons on the autism spectrum, those with sensory and communication disorders, ADHD, learning or developmental disabilities, dementia, all members of the Disability community, or those who simply want a more relaxed theatre experience.

Relaxed Performances are specifically designed to welcome patrons who will benefit from a less restricted audience environment.

## **Audience members are encouraged to...**

- Leave or re-enter the theatre space at anytime
- Move around, clap, speak, laugh, doodle, knit, dance, etc.
- Visit our lobby Chill Out Zone or Quiet Zone at anytime
- Use phones or electronic devices like iPads (\*please do not take photos or video recordings during the performance)
- Wear sunglasses or cover/close their eyes if the lights get too bright
- Use sound dampening/cancelling headphones or cover their ears if the sound gets too loud

## **During the performance...**

- Sensory elements will be reduced (such as light and sound)
- There will be no startling effects (like strobe or heavy fog)
- The house lights will never fully go dark (ie: no “blackouts”)
- Production elements that may be a sensory overload will be explained at the beginning of the performance

# Getting Here

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The Grand Theatre is located in the heart of Downtown London at:

**471 Richmond Street  
London, ON. N6A 3E4**

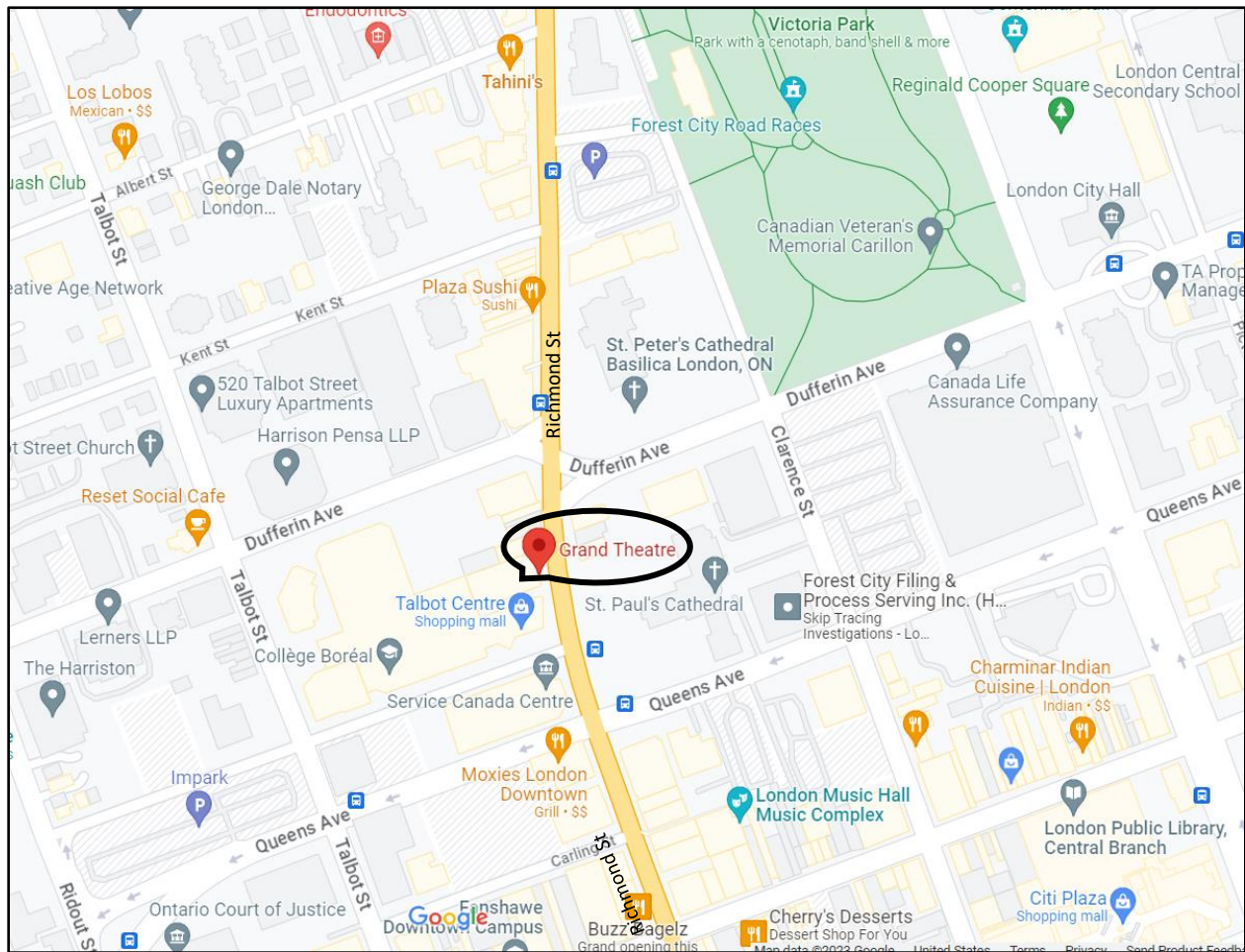
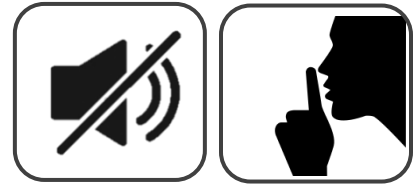


Image Description: Map of Downtown London, ON., with the Grand Theatre Circled

Please browse our [Venue Guide](#) for a complete overview for how to get to the theatre, our spaces, and the services we offer.



# QUIET ZONE



This area is located on the first floor in our  
**Auburn Lounge.**

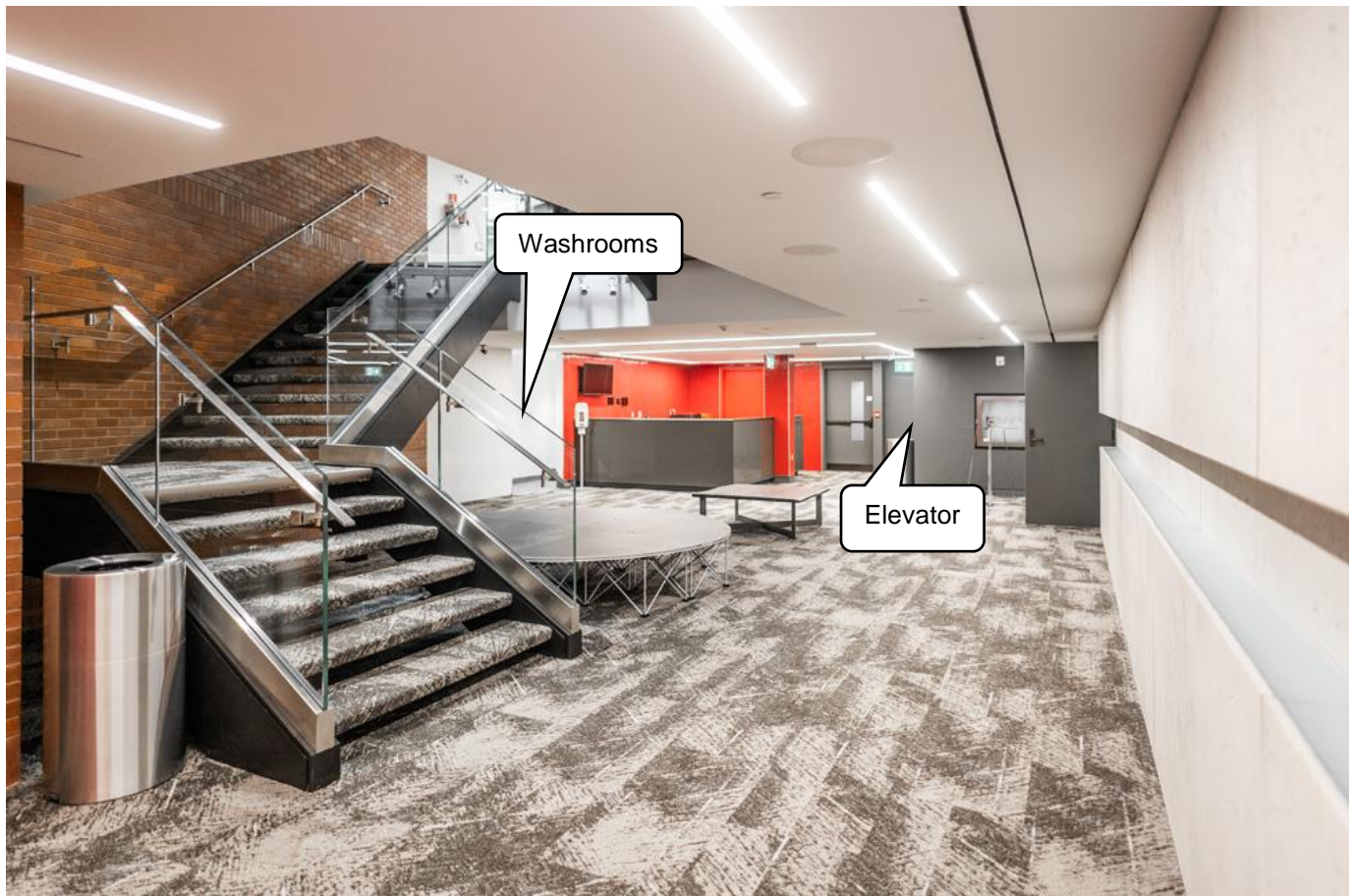
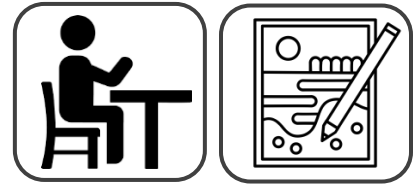


Image Description: There is a staircase to the left of the lounge. The floor is carpeted. There are many bright lights that illuminate the space.

You can access this space with stairs or by elevator. In this space, sounds and sensory elements are minimized to create a quieter area. You can eat/drink in this space, or can just hang out. Feel free to use this space before, during, or after the performance!

# CHILL OUT ZONE



This area is on our fourth floor and in our  
**Drewlo Lounge.**



Image Description: There is a staircase in the middle of the lounge. The floor is carpeted. There is a skylight in the centre of the ceiling, and a wall full of windows on the farthest wall.

You can access this space with stairs or by elevator. In this space, there are many chairs, activities, and sensory devices for you to utilize.

You can eat/drink in this space, or can just hang out. If this space is a little too loud, you are welcome to use noise-cancelling headphones, or can go to our Quiet Zone on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. Feel free to use this space before, during, or after the performance!



# The Theatre



Image Description: Inside the Spriet stage, looking at the stage from the side of the balcony level seating. There are several levels of seating looking up or down at the main stage.

30 minutes before the performance starts (at around 1:30 PM for our 2:00pm “matinee” performance), you will hear chimes in our lobby spaces and the lights will pulse. This means it is time to wrap up in the lobby, use the washroom, and find your seat. If you aren’t sure where you are sitting, you can ask a volunteer/usher to help you.

The seats are fixed, meaning they do not move. You can explore the theatre, but please do not come too close to the orchestra pit or stage for your own and the actors’/musicians’ safety.

The lights will be on in the theatre, and people may be talking. The show will begin with someone walking onstage to deliver a pre-show speech.

You can leave and re-enter the theatre anytime you’d like during a Relaxed Performance. Use the main doors at the back of the auditorium, or you can ask a staff member to help you exit the theatre.

# Seating Map – Spriet Stage

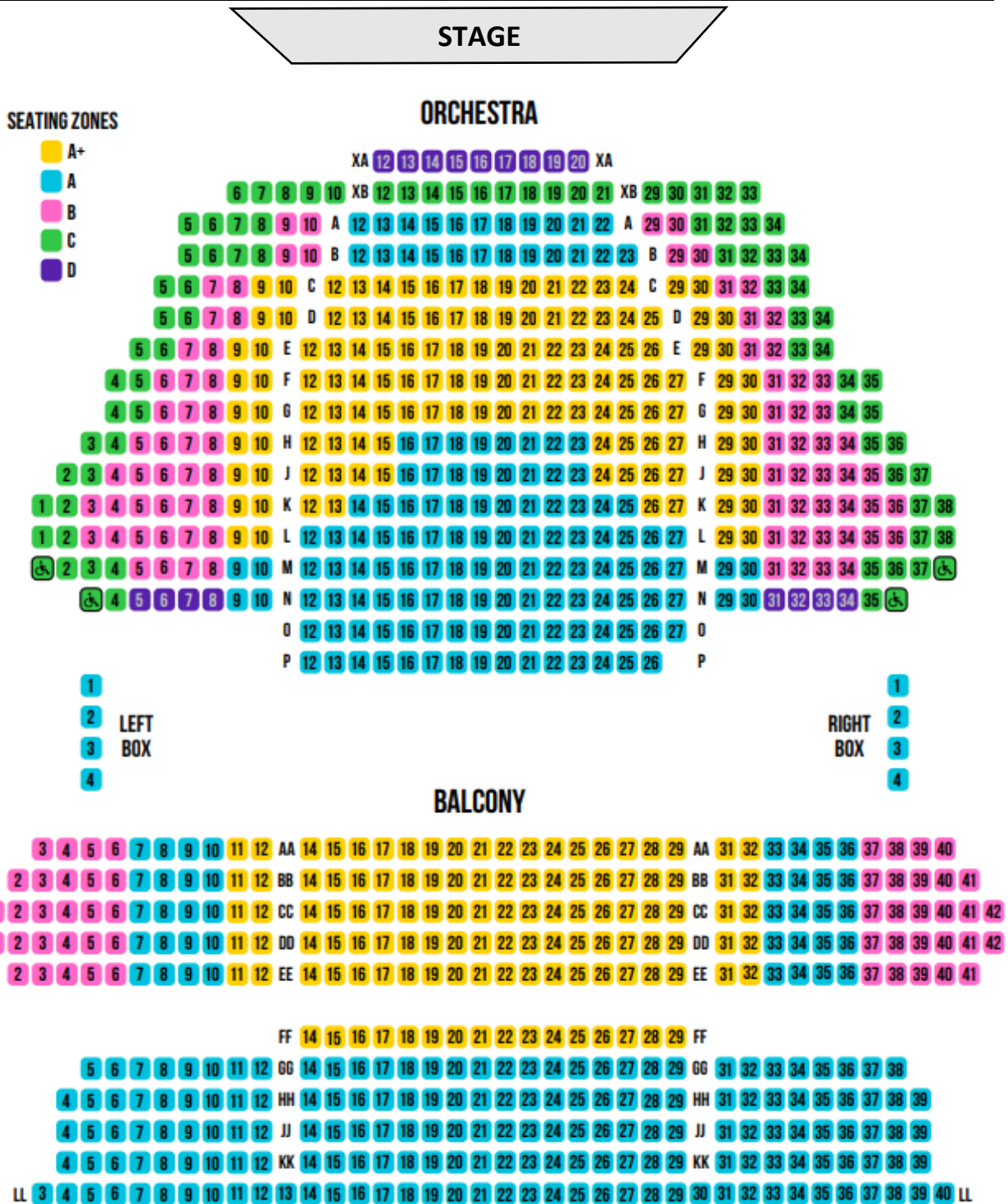


Image Description: A seating map of the Spriet Stage. The top map is the Orchestra level, and the bottom map is the Balcony level.



## Quick Facts: *Million Dollar Quartet*

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**Age Recommendation:** 12+

**Production Advisory:** This production features atmospheric haze, flashing lights, and loud noises. All of these effects are dimmed or removed for the Relaxed Performance on Sunday, May 5.

**Content Advisory:** This play contains racist language and terminology that accurately depicts a time-period where overt racism was even more prevalent than it is today. It also contains theatrical devices including flashing lights and water-based haze, as well as mature content.

**Run Time:** Approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes

When the performance should start	Intermission	When the performance should end
<b>First Half</b>	<b>(20 Minute Break)</b>	<b>Second Half</b>
2:00 PM	2:55-3:15 PM	4:15 PM

### Short Summary:

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, 1956, an extraordinary twist of fate brought Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Carl Perkins together – for the first and only time. That night, they recorded rock ‘n’ roll history.

House Program: [click here.](#)

Study Guide: [click here.](#)

# Meet the Characters

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## Sam Phillips

Played By:  
Omar Alex Khan



The founder of Sun Records, a record label company in Memphis, Tennessee. He discovered Jerry Lee Lewis, Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, and Carl Perkins.

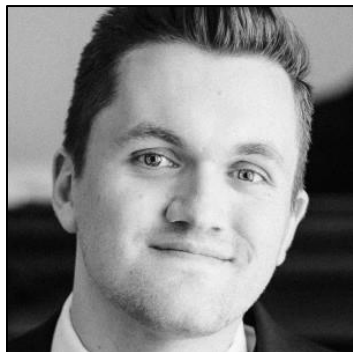


## Dyanne

Played By:  
Kelly Hollif



An aspiring singer, and Elvis Presley's girlfriend.



## Jay Perkins

Played By:  
Erik Larson



Carl Perkins' older brother and bassist for his band. He is at Sun Records to record Carl's new album.



## W.S. "Fluke" Holland

Played By:  
Justin Han



The drummer for Carl Perkins. He is at Sun Records to record Carl's new album.



## Elvis Presley

Played By:  
Michael Van Hevel



Known as the “King of Rock ‘n’ Roll”, and an international star.



## Johnny Cash

Played By:  
Adam Stevenson



Johnny Cash is visiting Sun Records to tell Sam that he won't be renewing his contract with Sun. He has already signed with Columbia Records.



## Jerry Lee Lewis

Played By:  
Christo Graham



Brought in by Sam to play piano for Carl's new album. He is Sun Records newest discovery.



## Carl Perkins

Played By:  
Tyler Check

At Sun Records to record a new album. He's hoping to recapture some of his fame as a founding father of rock and roll.







Image Description: [Left] The actors, in costume, are all standing and singing together. The stand on the set of *Million Dollar Quartet* which shows the interior of Sun Studios recording studio. There are neon lights and a drum set can be seen in the background. From left to right is: Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis, Elvis Presley and Johnny Cash. [Right] Sam Phillips holds a famous photograph of the *Million Dollar Quartet* and looks out to the audience.



Image Description: [Left] Actors portraying Dyanne and Elvis look at each other smiling while Elvis plays guitar. [Right] The actor portraying Jerry Lee Lewis sits on the piano, playing it in a dynamic way.

Million Dollar Quartet production credits:

Directed and Choreographed by Julie Tomaino  
 Music Direction by Patrick Bowman  
 Set Design by Joshua Quinlan  
 Costume Design by Laura Delchiaro

Lighting Design by Michelle Ramsay  
 Sound Design by Brian Kenny  
 Photos by Dahlia Katz

# What We Know

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## **Sun Records:**

Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Elvis Presley, and Johnny Cash are all becoming quite popular in the genre of Rock 'n' Roll. Sam Phillips, the founder of Sun Records, discovered all of these artists.

**Carl Perkins** resents younger, up and coming musicians (like Jerry Lee Lewis). The song he wrote and recorded, "Blue Suede Shoes," was a bigger hit for Elvis than it was for him. He's worried he won't be remembered, and struggles to remain relevant in the record business.

**Jerry Lee Lewis** is a new musician at Sun Records, who is ready to claim his place in music history. It is important to him that his fellow musicians recognize his greatness.

**Elvis Presley** is now with RCA Records, and is being managed by Colonel Parker. Although he is an international star, he is unhappy with how he's being managed and misses Sam Phillips guidance.

**Johnny Cash** is quickly becoming a music sensation. With Elvis gone, Sam is ecstatic to have such a popular musician signed with his record company. Wanting to sing more religious music, Johnny signs with Columbia Records without Sam knowing.

## **Style of Narration:**

Sam Phillips will act as the storyteller of this musical. He will sometimes speak directly to the audience, and will explain things that have happened in the past.

# Full Plot Summary



<b>Date:</b>	December 4 <sup>th</sup> , 1956
<b>Location:</b>	Sun Records Studio in Memphis, Tennessee, U.S.A.
<b>Significance:</b>	Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, and Elvis Presley played together for the first and only time and became known as the Million Dollar Quartet.

## LEGEND

Sam Phillips Narrating:



Studio (1956):



Flashback:



Sam Phillips watches from a distance, as Carl, Johnny, Jerry Lee, and Elvis jam together inside the Sun Records recording studio [**“Blue Suede Shoes”**]. When the song finishes, Sam begins to explain how he started Sun Records, and the hard work that went into it. Sam recently sold Elvis’ contract to the recording company RCA, but RCA has given Sam an offer: sell Sun Records to them, to work exclusively with Elvis again. The only catch – RCA wants an answer by the end of the day.



Jay Perkins (bassist), Fluke Holland (drummer), and Jerry Lee Lewis (pianist), are all in the Sun Records studio waiting on Carl Perkins to record a new album. Since he’s paying them to play, Sam encourages the group to start the session without Carl [**“Wild One”**].



Sam tells the story of how he first met Jerry Lee Lewis, and how he helped to develop his career.





While the group plays “**Wild One**”, Carl Perkins walks into the studio. Jerry Lee enthusiastically introduces himself, and Carl is not too impressed with the young piano player at his session. When the group begins playing [**“Matchbox”**], Carl and Jerry Lee quickly begin to butt heads with each other. In an effort to stop Jerry Lee from playing, Carl changes the song to one that doesn’t require piano [**“Who Do You Love”**].



Sam tells the story of how he first met Carl Perkins. “Blue Suede Shoes” put Sun Records on the map, and Sam intends to help Carl produce another hit.



Just as Carl starts to lunge at Jerry Lee, Johnny enters the recording studio. After some prompting from Sam, Johnny sings one of his hit songs with the group [**“Folsom Prison Blues”**].



Sam tells the story of how he first met Johnny Cash, and how he made him a star. Because of this success, Sam plans to give Johnny a 3-year extension for his recording contract with Sun Records.



During the last verse of “**Folsom Prison Blues**”, Elvis and his girlfriend Dyanne walk into the studio. As the group catches up and gets to know each other, Dyanne is encouraged to sing a song [**“Fever”**]. Sam jokes with Elvis if he wants to join Sun Records again, and Elvis begins to reminisce about the start of his career [**“Memories are Made of This”**].



Sam tells the story of how he first met Elvis Presley, and how he helped to develop his sound [**“That’s Alright Mama”**]. Although Elvis started becoming quite popular in 1955, Sam was completely broke. Because of this predicament, Sam sold Elvis’ contract to RCA Records for \$40,000. It was with this money that Sam was able to pay off all his bills, buy himself a radio station and some stock in the Holiday Inn.



Feeling like Elvis is taking the spotlight during his recording session, Carl storms out of the studio. The brief break gives Sam and Johnny a moment to talk, until Jerry Lee launches into another song [**“Brown-Eyed Handsome Man”**]. Sam urges the group to continue playing, and asks Johnny to start one of the old spirituals he’s always asking to record [**“Down by the Riverside”**]. ***\*INTERMISSION\**** As Sam and Dyanne head towards the control room, they talk about the RCA deal, and what it means for Elvis. Back in the recording studio, Johnny is playing one of his hits [**“Sixteen Tons”**]. Jerry Lee eventually joins in with [**“My Babe”**], and the two sing their songs as a duet.

Taking a quick break from their jam session in the studio, Carl, Johnny and Dyanne go outside. As they talk, Carl warns Johnny that Sam plans to hand him a contract renewal. While they are all grateful to Sam for starting their careers, they know Sun Records can only take them so far. After finishing the song [**“Long Tall Sally”**], Elvis follows Sam out of the recording studio. When Sam and Elvis come back in, the group is talking about their siblings. Being reminded of the preciousness of life, and what Rock ‘n’ Roll means, they play [**“Peace in the Valley”**], and a couple lines of [**“Temptation”**].

Acknowledging that they’ll soon have to go their separate ways, Johnny sings [**“I Walk the Line”**], and Dyanne leads [**“I Hear You Knockin’**]. When the group finishes [**“Let’s Have a Party”**], Sam announces a special anniversary – the day Johnny Cash signed with Sun Records. When presenting Johnny with a renewal contract, Sam is shocked to discover that Johnny and Carl Perkins have already signed contracts with Columbia Records. Trying to cut the tension in the room, Jerry Lee tells Sam he’s found his next hit for Sun Records [**“Great Balls of Fire”**].



With a decision needed for RCA by the end of the day, Sam explains that he can’t just walk away from Sun Records. He’s put too much into creating the studio, and he doesn’t want someone else calling the shots. Wanting to remember this moment at the studio, Sam goes to grab a camera. A historic photo is recreated with the group gathering around the piano, preserving the quartet in music history.

As a musical encore, the group presents a medley of greatest hits: [**“Hound Dog”**], [**“Ghostriders in the Sky”**], [**“See you Later Alligator”**], and [**“Whole Lotta Shakin’”**].

# Contact Us



If you have any questions about this Relaxed Performance, please reach out to...

**Breanne Ritchie**  
**Director of Education**  
**& Community Engagement**



519-672-9030 ext. 224



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Visit our website for future events and information!



We look forward to seeing you!

